REMARKS

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner restricted pending Claims 22-43 into 57 different groups. The Examiner stated that there is no special technical feature that unites the groups and indicated that the unity of invention is lacking. The Examiner also requested that, upon election of a group, Applicants elect a particular species for the purposes of searching.

Reply to Restriction Requirement

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group 2, Claims 22-25, 29-37 and 39-43, drawn to a mixture, wherein matrix material A is defined by formula (2)

and wherein the variable L is P, As, Sb, or Bi.

Responsive to the requirement for the election of species for the purposes of searching, Applicants hereby elect Bis(9,9'-spirobifluoren-2-yl)phenylphosphine oxide (matrix material M1), disclosed on page 23, Example 1, of the English translation of the specification as filed. Claims readable on the elected species are Claims 22-25, 29-32, 33-37, and 39-43.

Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application or take such other appropriate action as deemed necessary to protect the non-elected inventions. Applicants do not hereby abandon or waive any rights in the non-elected inventions.

Traversal of Restriction of Group 2, Groups 5-15 and Groups 40-42

The Examiner stated that no special technical feature exists.

PCT Rule 13.2 defines the "special technical feature" as a technical feature that defines a contribution which the invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. Applicants submit that Groups 2, 5-15 and 40-42 share a common technical feature.

Namely, the elected Group 2 and the Groups 5-15 and 40-42 share the following common structural feature: the compounds of the formula (2) of the elected Group 2, the compounds of the formulas (5) - (15) of Groups 5-15 (see Claims 26) and the compounds of formulas (40) - (42) of Groups 40-42 (see Claim 28) all share the moiety

wherein L is P, As, Sb or Bi, wherein X is oxygen, and wherein the group L=O is substituted with three substituents.

Furthermore, in order to show that the claims lack unity of invention, the Examiner needs to demonstrate that the special technical feature is not novel in view of prior art. No such demonstration has been made. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the restriction is improper.

Moreover, the compounds of the formulas (5) – (15) of Claims 26 and the compounds of formulas (40) – (42) of Claim 28 fall within the scope of formula (2) of Claim 25, which the Examiner used to define Group 2, now elected. As such, Claims 26 and 28 are drawn to a subgenus of the genus defined by the Examiner as Group 2. (See MPEP §806.04 for the definition of a generic claim.) As such, Applicants submit that since Applicants elected Group 2 as defined by the Examiner, examination of these Groups places no additional burden on the Examiner. Applicants request a rejoinder of Groups 2, 5-15 and 40-42 (to the extent that Groups 5-15 and 40-42 are directed to the subgenus of Group 2).

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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